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SACRAMENTO MAN INDICTED IN SCHEME TO DEFRAUD OVER \$1.3 MILLION

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury in Sacramento returned an indictment charging ROSS ALLEN ROJEK, 37, of Sacramento, California, with eight counts of mail fraud, two counts of wire fraud, and three counts of money laundering.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys James P. Arguelles and Robert Tice-Raskin, who are prosecuting the case, the indictment, which was the result of a joint investigation undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Sacramento Police Department, and the California Department of Corporations, charges that between the period of March of 2002 through the present, ROJEK devised and participated in a scheme to solicit investments for a purported face recognition technology system. Specifically, the indictment charges that as part of the scheme, ROJEK, while using both aliases and operating under the business names of Face Information Technology LLC and Sentry Biometrics ("Face IT/Sentry"), sent potential investors a bogus "prospectus." This "prospectus" falsely claimed that the Face IT/Sentry "management team" consisted of three individuals, all of whom were fictitious, who purportedly had previously held high level positions with Netscape Communications. This "prospectus" also fraudulently claimed that Face IT/Sentry had developed, and prepared patents which would help "solve America's security crisis" brought about by the events of September 11, 2001. The indictment also alleges that ROJEK falsely represented to investors that Face IT/Sentry had office space and "facilities" in the Sacramento area, when in reality these addresses were simply mail drops, and phone services with minimal or no office space. Finally, the indictment charges that ROJEK took affirmative steps to continue to mislead and "lull" his investors in order to keep the scheme concealed. As a result of the scheme, ROJEK was able to raise over \$1.3 million dollars from at least one hundred and twelve investors located around the country.

If convicted, ROJEK faces a maximum sentence of twenty years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine for each count of mail and wire fraud. In addition, if convicted of the money laundering counts, ROJEK faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison, along with a fine of up to twice the amount of money he wrongfully obtained.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

A copy of this news release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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